

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
Teacher Outline
Program: Worms in the Web of Life
Grades: K, 1

Program Objectives

To discover the role earthworms play in nature.;
To learn about the process of decomposition; and
To introduce the variety of animals that are involved in the process of decomposition.

Program Length

1 hour

Program content

Introduction of staff and park
Exploring under logs. Students are aided by teachers and chaperones in searching under logs for worms, roly-polys, and other small forest critters.
Introduction to the variety of animals that live in the soil, why they are important, and how they interact with their environment
Discussion of the parts of an earthworm
Trail walk to discover the effects of decomposition in nature
Visit to the compost bins to learn how earthworms play a vital role in our soil

Terms to understand

- *Decomposition*: the process by which dead organic materials are broken down, chemically and mechanically (ex. A dead log that eventually becomes soil)

This program complements the following points in the Fairfax County Curriculum (Grade 1, Science)

- [students] understand that animals have different physical characteristics such as body coverings, shapes, different number of appendages, and body movements
- observe earthworms
- create an appropriate habitat for an earthworm *using knowledge from investigations*